

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of synthesizing speech in a computer synthesized speech interface by using discourse function level prosodic features, comprising the steps of:

determining a theory of discourse analysis from a plurality of theories of discourse analysis, wherein the determining a theory of discourse analysis is based on either a desired type of speech to be synthesized, or by user selection;

determining input text;

determining discourse functions in the input text, the discourse functions being determined based on a mapping between basic discourse constituents of the determined theory of discourse analysis and a plurality of discourse functions;

determining a model of discourse function level prosodic features; and

determining adjusted synthesized speech output based on the discourse functions in the input text, the model of discourse function level prosodic features, and the input text.

2. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the discourse functions are determined based on the determined theory of discourse analysis.

3. (original): The method of claim 2, in which the theory of discourse analysis is at least one of: the Linguistic Discourse Model, the Unified Linguistic Discourse Model, Rhetorical Structures Theory, Discourse Structure Theory and Structured Discourse Representation Theory.

4. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the input text is dynamically generated by another application.

5. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein determining the adjusted synthesized speech output further comprises the steps of:

determining discourse function level prosodic feature adjustments; and

determining the adjusted synthesized speech output based on the synthesized speech output and the discourse level prosodic feature adjustments.

6. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the model of discourse function level prosodic features is a predictive model of discourse functions.

7. (original): The method of claim 6, in which the predictive models are determined based on at least one of: machine learning and rules.

8. (original): The method of claim 1, in which the prosodic features occur in at least one of a location: preceding, within and following the associated discourse function.

9. (original): The method of claim 1, in which the prosodic features are encoded within a prosodic feature vector.

10. (original): The method of claim 9, in which the prosodic feature vector is a multimodal feature vector.

11. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, in which the discourse functions include an intra-sentential discourse function.

12. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, in which the discourse functions include an inter-sentential discourse function.

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended): A system for synthesizing speech using discourse function level prosodic features comprising:

an input/output circuit for retrieving input text; and

a processor that determines a theory of discourse analysis from a plurality of theories of discourse analysis based on the speech to be synthesized, wherein the determining a theory of discourse analysis is based on either a desired type of speech to be synthesized, or by user selection;; determines discourse functions in the input text based on a mapping between basic discourse constituents of the determined theory of discourse analysis and a plurality of discourse functions; determines a model of discourse function level prosodic features; and which

determines adjusted synthesized speech output based on the discourse functions, the model of discourse function level prosodic features, and the input text.

16. (previously presented): The system of claim 15, wherein the discourse functions are determined based on the theory of discourse analysis.

17. (original): The system of claim 16, in which the theory of discourse analysis is at least one of: the Linguistic Discourse Model, the Unified Linguistic Discourse Model, Rhetorical Structures Theory, Discourse Structure Theory and Structured Discourse Representation Theory.

18. (previously presented): The system of claim 15, wherein the input text is generated by another application.

19. (previously presented): The system of claim 15, wherein the processor determines a synthesized speech output based on the input text; determines discourse function level prosodic feature adjustments; and determines adjusted synthesized speech output based on the synthesized speech output and the discourse level prosodic feature adjustments.

20. (original): The system of claim 15, wherein the model of discourse function level prosodic features is a predictive model of discourse functions.

21. (original): The system of claim 20, in which the predictive models are determined based on at least one of: machine learning and rules.

22. (original): The system of claim 15, in which the prosodic features occur in at least one of a location: preceding, within and following the associated discourse function.

23. (original): The system of claim 15, in which the prosodic features are encoded within a prosodic feature vector.

24. (original): The system of claim 23, in which the prosodic feature vector is a multimodal feature vector.

25. (original): The system of claim 15, in which the discourse function is an intra-sentential discourse function.

26. (original): The system of claim 15, in which the discourse function is an inter-sentential discourse function.

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended): Computer readable storage medium comprising: computer readable program code embodied on the computer readable storage medium, the computer readable program code usable to program a computer to synthesize speech using discourse level prosodic features comprising the steps of:

determining a theory of discourse analysis from a plurality of theories of discourse analysis, wherein the determining a theory of discourse analysis is based on either a desired type of speech to be synthesized, or by user selection; based on the speech to be synthesized;

determining input text;

determining discourse functions in the input text, the discourse functions being determined based on a mapping between basic discourse constituents of the determined theory of discourse analysis and a plurality of discourse functions;

determining a model of discourse function level prosodic features; and

determining adjusted synthesized speech output based on the discourse functions, the model of discourse function level prosodic features, and the input text.